

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:286

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007

BHARAT DHARA SCHEME

Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has formulated a new scheme called `Bharat Dhara` with a view to conserve the rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to hand over the responsibility of river conservation to the States;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has taken up the issue with the States in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 286 to be answered on Wednesday, the 5th December, 2007 on "Bharat Dhara Scheme" raised by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey & Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), a Centrally sponsored Scheme administered by the Ministry of Environment & Forests presently covers pollution abatement works in 35 rivers spread over 164 towns in 20 States of the country at an approved cost of Rs.4793 crore. Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity. With the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population, review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process.

(c) to (e) Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Governments to maintain the desired water quality by creating inter alia proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial support.

The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments. A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and State level reviews the policy issues, funding pattern and progress of works from time to time. The States have been advised to ensure coordination among various Departments/agencies at the implementation level through holding regular meetings by Principal Secretary/Chief Secretary and to sort out inter-sectoral issues like acquisition of land, power supply, mobilization of resources among others.